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United States Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 48

Washington, D. C.

Issued June, 1929

The Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration of the state of the st

HEMISTRY AND SOILS

of the

United States Department of Agriculture

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Enforcement of
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT
TEA ACT
IMPORT MILK ACT
INSECTICIDE ACT
CAUSTIC POISON ACT
NAVAL STORES ACT



United States Government Printing Office Washington: 1929

ORGANIZATION OF THE FOOD, DRUG, AND INSECTICIDE ADMINISTRATION

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THE FOOD, DRUG, AND INSECTICIDE ADMINISTRATION

The Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, organized on July 1, 1927, was created by Congress, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, for the specific purpose of administering a group of acts enforced by the Department of Agriculture that are designed primarily to promote purity and truthful labeling in certain commodities essential to the public health and to the economic welfare of the Nation. These acts require for their enforcement the services of men trained in administration, chembacteriology, pharmacology, toxicology, medicine, entomology, plant and animal pathology, and sanitary science, not only to apply the general principles and established facts already developed by these sciences, but also to ascertain by scientific technic the essential facts to guide administrative action in specific cases. Both the form of the organization and the policy that guides its activities are designed to promote intensified regulatory operations to bring to consumers the maximum protection provided by the acts of Congress with the minimum disturbance to legitimate commerce.

REGULATORY ACTS ENFORCED

The six acts administered by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration are based on that provision of the Constitution which gives the Federal Government the power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce. The food and drugs act prohibits commerce in adulterated or misbranded manufactured or natural foods, beverages, stock foods, remedies, drugs, and medicines. The aim of the insecticide act is to protect farmers, fruit growers, market gardeners, stock and poultry raisers, and others from buying and using insecticides and fungicides that

fall below the strength claimed for them, that will not accomplish the results promised, or that are injurious to plants or animals. The import milk act prohibits the entry into the United States of milk and cream that have not been produced under prescribed sanitary conditions, from healthy herds, or that do not meet certain specified standards at the time of entry. The tea act provides for the examination of all tea offered for entry into the United States and the admission of only such tea as meets the standards of quality, purity, and fitness for consumption set by the Government. The caustic poison act, by requiring certain labeling, is aimed to safeguard the household against accidental injury from ammonia, lye, carbolic acid, and other dangerous substances commonly used in the home. The naval stores act establishes standard grades for rosin and turpentine, authorizes the department to examine, analyze, and classify or grade them upon the request and at the expense of interested parties, and is designed to prevent deception in transactions in these commodities.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

The personnel of approximately 530 includes administrative officers, chemists, bacteriologists, physicians, veterinarians, entomologists, plant pathologists, microscopists, pharmacologists, inspectors, and other specialists, with the necessary complement of clerks and helpers. Branch stations manned by specialists are maintained in 16 of the leading commercial cities of the United States to supervise interstate and foreign commerce in foods, drugs, insecticides, fungicides, naval stores, and caustic poisons. (Fig. 3.) Each station is responsible for seeing that the six acts enforced by the administration are complied with by the manufacturers, dealers, and importers who trade within a specified territory tributary to the city in which the station is located. The station territories, covering the entire United States, are organized into an eastern, a central, and a western district, with headquarters respectively at New York, Chicago, and San

Francisco. A responsible administrative officer directs the work of each district.

The Washington staff, consisting of approximately 200, is organized into executive supervisory offices and technical control laboratories to administer the various acts, to recommend methods for attacking regulatory problems, to conduct necessary investigations, and to solve the more difficult technological problems. At the head of the organization are the chief and assistant chief, who direct and coordinate the work in Washington and throughout the entire country.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS RELATING TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTS

The plan of operation developed for the enforcement of the food and drugs act is now applied in the enforcement of the insecticide act, the naval stores act, and the caustic poison act, with only such slight modifications as are made necessary by variations in the text of the acts or differing conditions in the industries.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The volume and value of the food and drug products that enter interstate commerce and that are imported into this country are enormous. To supervise this traffic effectively with a force which is necessarily limited it is essential that a systematic plan of operation be adopted. Accordingly a project system has been put into effect. The various types of food and drug products coming within the scope of the act are divided into classes or projects, such as canned goods, cereal products, fruit and fruit products, cattle foods, proprietary medicines, and pharmaceutical products.

It is a well-established fact that the majority of American food and drug manufacturers are doing an honest and legitimate business. If the products of these ethical manufacturers can be eliminated from consideration, the efforts of the administration may be concentrated on that very small proportion who are deliberately, negligently, or unknowingly violating the law in some

respect. In order to determine which manufacturers are complying with the law, thoroughgoing factory inspections are made by trained inspectors. The visits of these inspectors are ordinarily heartily welcomed by the manufacturer who is doing a legitimate business. Where admission to an establishment for the purpose of making inspection is refused the information necessary to determine whether infractions of the law are occurring can be obtained by the collection of samples on the market and chemical analysis in the laboratories. Through the medium of these factory inspections, as well as by means of chemical analysis when necessary, it is possible to determine what particular food and drug commodities are adulterated or misbranded and what particular types of violations are to be anticipated, and to segregate the comparatively small section of the industry that is doing a questionable business.

With this information available the administration is able at the beginning of each year to formulate comprehensive plans for the enforcement of the law in a uniform manner throughout the United States. The field agents are fully advised of these plans and work in harmony with them. The plan of operation is made sufficiently flexible so that should an emergency arise, for example, an outbreak of food poisoning, the less important lines of operation may be set aside and efforts concentrated on tracing and removing from the market the product involved.

Where the preliminary inspection made by the field force has revealed a type of violation requiring correction, several courses of action are open. If it appears that the infraction is one of a deliberate character, damaging the health or the pocketbooks of consumers, there is no justification for withholding an application of the punitive section of the law. If, for example, a manufacturer is found deliberately shortweighting his product or so negligently controlling his output as to cause serious shortages, even in the absence of deliberation, or if a substitution of a low-priced article for a highpriced one, such as the adulteration of maple

sirup with glucose, is encountered, no ground exists for the exercise of leniency, and immediate steps are taken to remove the product from the market by seizure and also to prosecute the offending individual or firm through the criminal section of the law. If, on the other hand, the infraction appears to be the result of a misunderstanding and the ensuing damage to the public is not of such a character as to require immediate removal of the goods from the market, it is the practice before initiating action to give notice to the trade, advising that on or after a certain date legal action under the food and drugs act will be instituted if continued violations are encountered. Where the facts seem to warrant it such notice may be preceded by a public hearing at which interested persons are accorded opportunity for free discussion. Disinterested experts are freely consulted to supplement facts derived from investigations in reaching conclusions as to the proper administrative procedure.

The Federal food and drugs act provides for the prosecution of the person or concern responsible for violating its provisions and for the seizure of the adulterated or misbranded products. Seizure actions are instituted in four classes of violations: (1) In the case of food products containing added poisonous or other added deleterious ingredients which may be harmful to health; (2) in the case of food products consisting in whole or in part of filthy, decomposed, or putrid animal or vegetable substance, or any portion of an animal unfit for food, or a product of a diseased animal, or one that has died otherwise than by slaughter; (3) in the case of food or drug products so grossly adulterated or misbranded with false or fraudulent claims that their distribution constitutes a serious imposition upon the public; (4) in the case of deliberate frauds in the shipment of adulterated and misbranded food products which seriously demoralize legitimate trade practices. If the violation does not fall clearly within one of these four classes, seizure action is not taken, but the party responsible for the violation may be prosecuted.

The evidence necessary to prove a producer or shipper guilty is gathered and presented at the trial by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, through the Department of Justice. Sometimes the cooperation of State and city health, food, drug, and feeding stuffs officials is enlisted. Figure 1 shows each essential step in the development of a case as it progresses through the organization units of the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration and the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and the courts.

An inspector (1) collects samples of a product suspected of being in violation of the act, and forwards them to the proper station for analysis. At the station an analysis is made (2), the results of which are sent by the station chief, with his recommendation as to the proper action to be adopted, to his district chief (3). If the district chief approves the station's recommendation (4), he instructs the station (5) to cite the manufacturer or shipper of the product in question to a hearing at the station headquarters, and at the same time submits a statement of the action taken to the chief in Washington. On the date set, the person cited reports for an oral hearing (6), or presents in writing his statement as to why the Government should not take further action.

After the hearing, the station chief prepares a summary of the findings, which he forwards to the district chief, together with his recommendation as to the proper action to be taken (7). The district chief may indorse the recommendation as it stands or modify it (8), after which he sends all the papers in the case, accompanied by a statement of what he considers appropriate action, to the chief of the administration (9). The chief or assistant chief of the administration may then decide upon the next step, but as a rule he refers the matter (10) to the laboratory or office in Washington specializing in the product involved. If the specialist agrees with the recommendation of the district chief that prosecution proceedings should be instituted, the case is transmitted to the chief or assistant chief of the administration, with an indorsement of the recommendation for prosecution.

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

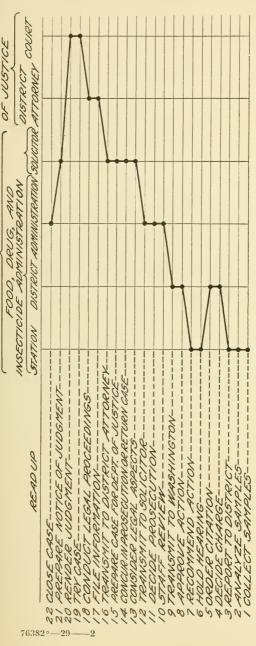


FIGURE 1.—Course of a case under the food and drugs act

The case is then considered in the office of the chief and assistant chief (11), after which, if these officials concur in the recommendation made, it is sent to the solicitor of the Department of Agriculture (12) to be examined as to its legal aspects. The solicitor decides (13) who is liable in connection with the alleged violation, and determines whether or not the evidence at hand is sufficient to support prosecution. If he disagrees with the recommendation of the administration, he returns the papers for further consideration. If, however, he concurs in the administration's recommendation for prosecution (14), by authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, he prepares the papers necessary to be transmitted to the Department of Justice (15), where the case is next sent (16) for final transmittal to the district attorney who will try the

The district attorney (17) files the information or presents the case to the grand jury for indictment of the producer or shipper, and conducts the necessary legal proceedings (18). The court hears the case (19), with or without a jury, and renders judgment (20), imposing a sentence where the verdict is "guilty." Members of the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration often are summoned to serve as witnesses at such trials. After the termination of the case in court, a notice of judgment, giving the essential facts, is prepared by the solicitor (21), and later published by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration. This terminates the case, and the records are closed (22).

On the theory that an educational effort, designed to acquaint manufacturers with the requirements of the law, is contemplated in any effective program for the enforcement of the Federal food and drugs act, the officials charged with this regulatory work are always willing to give advice on how to market a fully legal product to any firm honestly seeking such information. This service helps to prevent the commission of offenses under the statute. Furthermore, aside from the advantages it has for the manufacturer in sparing him expense and unfavorable notoriety, it assures to the public a greater

degree of protection than would be afforded if such educational work were not undertaken.

STANDARDS FOR FOOD AND DRUG PRODUCTS

To ascertain accurately when a food or drug is adulterated or misbranded, it is, of course, necessary to have suitable standards for comparison. Before the analyst can pass intelligently upon the samples submitted to him for examination, he must know the true composition of the products they purport to be. Consequently, the scientific staff of the Food, Drug,



FIGURE 2.—One of the food-control laboratories of the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration. This laboratory is engaged in the development of new methods of analysis to be used in enforcing the Federal food and drugs act

and Insecticide Administration is constantly engaged in an investigation of natural products. Based upon the results thus obtained, the department formulates standards for the guidance of food officials and manufacturers.

To illustrate: When it was found that spices were being grossly adulterated and misbranded and that it was difficult to determine just when a spice passed the borderline from a legal to an illegal product, a chemical and miscroscopical study of all the commonly used spices was undertaken. Using the results of this study as a foundation, fair standards for spices have been

determined and published to serve as a basis for action in the enforcement of the law. These standards, as well as those for many other types of food products, are printed in Service and Regulatory Announcements, Food and Drug No. 2.

As a supplement to this type of investigational work, studies are constantly being made to discover more efficient methods of analysis to be used in examining samples of foods and drugs and also to determine how commercial methods of preparation of products subject to the food and drugs act may be improved. (Fig. 2.)

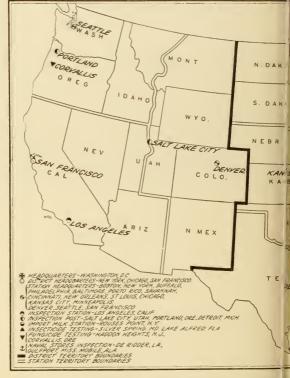
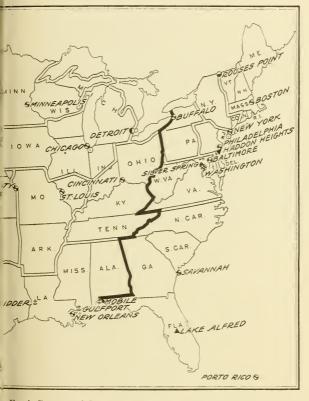


FIGURE 3.—District and station territories f

COLOR CERTIFICATION

As ordinarily manufactured for textile or other industrial purposes, dyes often contain impurities, some of which are toxic. It is important that only harmless dyes be employed in the preparation of foodstuffs. To safeguard consumers against the presence in food of a harmful dye, the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration has prepared a list of coal-tar colors known to be harmless when properly prepared and has adopted a scheme for examining batches of coal-tar colors and issuing certificates for



Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration



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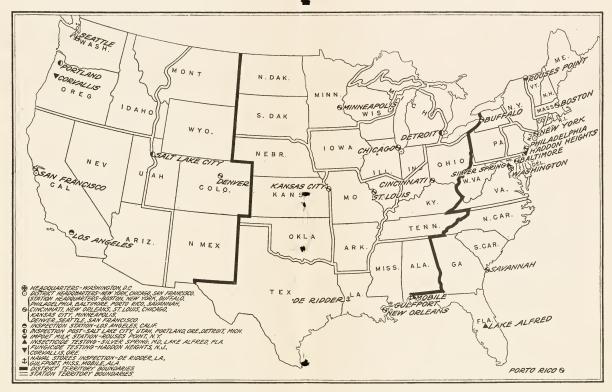


FIGURE 3.—District and station territories of the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration

those found harmless. By the proper use of only those coal-tar dyes that have been certified, food manufacturers may avoid all risk of putting out products made harmful by the coloring materials employed.

INSECTICIDE ACT

The insecticide act makes illegal the manufacture, sale, or transportation in interstate commerce of adulterated or misbranded insecticides and fungicides, as well as their importation and exportation. It contains definite standards to which all lead arsenates and Paris greens subject to it should conform. It provides that all insecticides and fungicides, other than lead arsenates and Paris greens, that contain inert ingredients shall bear, upon the face of the principal label of every package, a statement giving the name and quantity of each inert ingredient of the prepara tion, with a statement that such ingredient is inert, or, instead, a statement giving the name and quantity of each active ingredient, with the percentage of the combined inert ingredients. The principal labels for insecticides, other than lead arsenate and Paris green, and for fungicides that contain arsenic or compounds of arsenic, must show the percentage of arsenic present. Any false or exaggerated claim as to the efficacy of an insecticide or fungicide constitutes a violation of the law. The act demands further that all insecticides and fungicides must be up to the standards under which they are sold and that no insecticide or fungicide shall contain any substance or substances that will injure the plant on which it may be used.

Chemical analysis alone is not always sufficient to determine whether or not insecticides and fungicides can be depended upon to produce the results claimed by their manufacturers. Each new preparation must be applied, according to directions, to the pest it is advertised to eradicate. The administration therefore maintains testing farms in various parts of the country, where the efficacy of insecticides and fungicides can be tested against insects and funging their natural environment. (Fig. 4.)

The largest of the insecticide-testing farms, which is near Washington, D. C., includes orchards, vineyards, and fields that contain representative types of common deciduous fruits, small fruits and berries, vegetables, shade trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowers, where the insects that prey on such vegetation are used to test insecticides. Those sold to kill insects that infest dogs, cats, and chickens, as well as the household pests, such as roaches, moths, carpet beetles, flies, and mosquitoes, are tested at this farm. At Florence, S. C., insecticides to be used to control cotton insects are tested, and at Lake Alfred, Fla., preparations designed for use



FIGURE 4.—Studying the effect of commercial preparations on insects and vegetation

against citrus-fruit insects, many species of insects attacking vegetables, and certain poultry and household insects not common farther north are tried out. Insecticides recommended for use on horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and dogs are tested, in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, at the experimental farms at Bethesda and Beltsville, Md., and Kansas City, Kans.

Most of the practical tests on fungicides designed for use against the fungous diseases peculiar to the East are made at Haddon Heights, N. J. Some are made at a farm operated during the summer at Sodus, N. Y. Fungicides sold to

control plant diseases in the West are tested at Corvallis, Oreg. A careful study of all these preparations is made to determine both their efficacy and any injurious effects they may have on the host plants.

Based on the results of practical tests, action under the insecticide act is instituted against those products that have been shown to be incapable of fulfilling the claims made for them or to be injurious to the plants on which they are to be used.

Preparations designed to kill or repel household insects, disinfectants, and germicides come within the scope of the act. The effect of this branch of law enforcement by the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration is felt on farms, on cattle ranges, and in orchards, as well as in homes, schools, and hospitals. It is felt wherever man is engaged in his ceaseless struggle for control over plant diseases and the armies of insects and bacteria that yearly exact heavy tolls in life and property.

CAUSTIC POISON ACT

The caustic poison act requires that each of certain caustic and corrosive substances, or preparations containing them, sold in containers suitable for household use, shall bear a conspicuous, easily legible label or sticker containing (1) the common name of the substance, (2) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, seller, or distributor, (3) the word "Poison," in a specified type, plainly and conspicuously displayed, and (4) directions for treatment in case of accidental personal injury from the contents of the package.

The act applies to the substances named in the act or preparations containing them when they are shipped or delivered for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce, or have been received from shipment in such commerce for sale or exchange in any Territory or possession or in the District of Columbia.

NAVAL STORES ACT

The naval stores act is a two-purpose act, having a service, as well as a regulatory, clause. It

requires that all rosin and turpentine in interstate or foreign commerce shall be sold under the standards given in the act and provides that the word "turpentine" and the word "rosin" shall not be applied to anything other than naval stores of the United States standards. As a basis for enforcing these provisions, the act defines and establishes classes and grades for the several kinds of turpentine and rosin, makes the rosin types prepared by the Department of Agriculture the United States official standards for rosin, and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and promulgate new standards and to modify existing standards whenever the interests of the trade require that this be done.

The service clause of the naval stores act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, upon the request of interested persons, to examine and grade naval stores and to issue a certificate showing the analysis, classification, or grade, which certificate shall be prima facie evidence in any court. For this service the secretary is authorized to make a charge covering the actual cost.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS RELATING TO IMPORTED PRODUCTS

The procedure in enforcing the sections of the food and drugs act and the insecticide act that relate to products offered for importation into this country does not involve court action. The officials of the Division of Customs of the Treasury Department cooperate in this phase of the administration's regulatory work.

All foreign merchants are required to certify to certain facts concerning the products subject to the food and drugs and insecticide acts that they desire to ship, before the proper United States consular officials abroad. The certificates are attached to the invoices of the various products, and the administration officials scrutinize all invoices of shipments coming to this country. If an examination of the invoices and their accompanying certificates indicates that an article may not comply with the terms of the law, samples are taken for analysis, the entire ship-

ment being held until the results of the examination are known. When goods are found to be in violation of the act, the importer is so informed, and an opportunity is given him to present to the Government evidence as to why his product should not be denied entry. If the results of the hearing fail to show that the goods are in compliance with the law, a report is submitted to the collector of customs at the port of entry, who then refuses to admit the product in question into the United States. If the importer is not satisfied with the action taken by the administration, he may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture.

When an article is misbranded only, it usually may be brought in after the label has been corrected. It is customary also to release slightly adulterated goods, after they have been brought into compliance with the law by sorting, cleaning, or denaturing, to importers who through no fault of their own have received such a shipment. This privilege, of course, is not extended to persons or firms that have abused it in the past or have requested it repeatedly.

TEA ACT

The tea act forbids the entry into the United States of any tea that fails to reach the standards of quality, purity, and fitness for consumption set by the Government.

When the first Federal tea act was passed, in 1883, 24 years before the food and drugs act went into effect, the United States was rapidly becoming a dumping ground for the world's worst tea. The enforcement of this act has brought about a marked change in the character of the tea reaching American shores. Tea exporters are familiar with the requirements of the United States and take care to send over only teas that meet these requirements. Nowadays very little tea is denied entry into the United States because of failure to comply with the standards.

Under the provisions of the tea act, a board of tea experts, appointed each year by the Secretary of Agriculture, fixes uniform standards of quality, purity, and fitness for consumption for

teas to be imported into the United States. Samples of these standards are sold at cost to importers, who send them to their agents in the Far East, and similar samples are placed in the hands of the tea examiners at the various ports of entry. Samples from each line of tea offered for entry into the United States are examined. Those that do not conform to the standards are refused entry by the customs officials.

Under the law an importer may appeal to the Board of Tea Appeals a case on which he feels the decision has been unfair. There is no appeal from the decision of this board, made up of three members of the United States Department of Agriculture. The importer of any tea that is rejected by the administration is given 30 days in which to appeal his case to the Board of Tea Appeals. He is allowed six months in which to remove his rejected tea from the country. If not outside the limits of the United States by that time, the shipment must be destroyed.

Tea waste, tea siftings, tea sweeping, and lowgrade tea may be brought into the United States if they are to be used solely for technical or manufacturing purposes. The importer of such products, however, must give bond to the collector of customs that their identity will be destroyed during the process of manufacture.

IMPORT MILK ACT

The work of enforcing the import milk act is centered at Rouses Point, N. Y., in the heart of the section through which comes most of the milk from Canada, the largest exporter of milk and cream to the United States.

The Secretary of Agriculture issues to applicants permits for the importation into the United States of milk and cream after it has been shown that the cows from which the milk is taken are healthy and have been subjected to a physical examination, including a tuberculin test, within a year of the taking of the milk being offered for entry, and that the farm from which the milk comes, or the plant in which it has been handled, scores at least 50 on the score card drawn up by the Federal Bureau of Dairy Industry. A corps of veterinarians and inspectors

travels constantly through the milk-producing areas of Canada, checking up on conditions on the premises of applicants for permits. The Canadian Government assists in such inspections. The bacteriologists and inspectors attached to the Rouses Point station also test the milk or cream as it comes over the border, to make sure that it meets the standards for bacterial count set by the act and that its temperature has been properly controlled.

COOPERATION WITH STATES AND CITIES

The Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration maintains close cooperation with State and municipal officials who enforce laws regulating, within their respective jurisdictions, the manufacture and sale of foods, feeding stuffs, drugs, insecticides, fungicides, and caustic poisons. The Federal officials have jurisdiction over only such of these commodities as enter interstate or foreign commerce or are made, sold, or offered for sale in the District of Columbia or the Territories of the United States. They have no jurisdiction over those articles which are produced and sold within the confines of a single State. Most of the States, however, have laws covering some or all of these products similar in many respects to the Federal acts, and designed to afford the same protection to the several States that the Federal acts do to the Nation at large.

The office of cooperation, established in 1913, is designed to promote effective cooperation and seeks to afford a ready means for the interchange of information among all concerned and to render cooperative officials all possible assistance of a technical or administrative character. endeavor to keep in close touch with State and city officials, it has established very definite cooperative relationships with over a hundred departments throughout the United States and in the Dominion of Canada, Porto Rico, and Hawaii. Through these contacts the administration continually receives advice as to adulteration and misbranding, and, through the prompt assistance offered by State and city officials in the collection of official samples and otherwise, it is able more effectively to check adulteration and misbranding than would be possible by acting solely through its own personnel.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The Post Office Department calls upon the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration to assist in enforcing the fraud order law in its application to drugs, medicines, and some other products, by making chemical analyses and furnishing expert medical testimony. The action of the Post Office Department in denving the mails to such of these products as are sold under fraudulent claims is based upon the reports of the chemists and medical officers of the administration. Analyses are also made for the Post Office Department of many products to determine whether or not they contain poison or are of such nature as to injure mail or the employees handling it. The Federal Trade Commission also frequently calls upon the administration for analyses of food and drug samples representative of the commodities under consideration by the commission.

Many samples of foodstuffs, disinfectants, and medicines for the Army, the Navy, the Veterans' Bureau, the General Supply Committee, and other governmental agencies are examined to make sure that those accepted comply with contract specifications and are otherwise suitable for the purposes for which they are purchased by the Government.

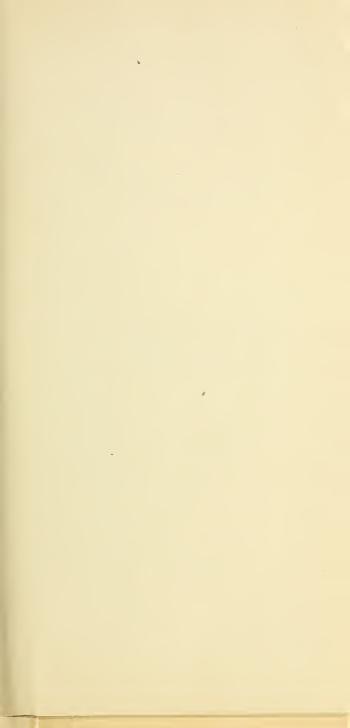
PUBLICATIONS

Reports of the results of court cases tried under the food and drugs act and the insecticide act are published from time to time in the form of notices of judgment. Similar provision for publication of the results of cases under the naval stores and caustic poison acts has been made in the regulations. Mailing lists are maintained of the names and addresses of those who desire to obtain the notices of judgment as issued under any of these acts. The texts of each of the six acts, together with the regulations adopted for their enforcement, are pub-

lished separately in pamphlet form under the following designations: Food and drugs act, S. R. A., F. D. No. 1; insecticide act, S. R. A., I. F. No. 1; import milk act, S. R. A., I. M. No. 1; caustic poison act, S. R. A., C. P. No. 1; tea act, S. R. A., T. No. 1; naval stores act, S. R. A., N. S. No. 1. A circular, designated S. R. A., F. D. No. 2, gives definitions and standards for certain food products. The procedure for obtaining certificates for coal-tar food dyes is set forth in S. R. A., F. D. No. 3. Other publications are issued from time to time. Copies of any of the publications may be obtained upon application to the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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May 28, 2013